

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

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R 300916Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2709

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2336

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, SN

SUBJ: HABIB/GOH DISCUSSION ON DEFENSE MATTERS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. AT LUNCHEON MAY 30, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB AND DR.

GOH DISCUSSED FOLLOWING DEFENSE MATTERS:

A. NEW ZEALAND MANAGEMENT OF NAVAL BASIN BERTHS

HABIB REVIEWED DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIME MINISTER LEE AND ROWLING IN WASHINGTON, AND NOTED ONLY PROBLEM SEEMED TO BE THAT GNZ WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER GOS WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT NEW ZEALAND MANAGEMENT OF NAVAL BASIN. HE URGED GOS INFORM GNZ THAT IT WOULD BE IN INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED TO HAVE NEW ZEALAND MANAGE BERTHS 6 AND 7 OF NAVAL BASIN AND SENOKO FUEL FARM. DR. GOH SAID ONLY CONCERN GOS HAD WAS THAT BERTHS MIGHT REMAIN FALLOW DURING PERIOD CWHEN U.S., UK, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WARSHIPS WERE NOT USING THEM. HABIB ASSURED DR. GOH THIS IS NOT THE INTENTION, THAT WHAT IS CONTEMPLATED FOR THESE TWO BERTHS IS SAME ARRANGEMENT AS

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CURRENTLY EXISTS UNDER UK CONTROL, NAMELY THAT WHEN BERTHS

ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR ALLIED WARSHIPS THEY CAN BE USED BY COMMERCIAL VESSELS. HOWEVER, U.S. AND ALLIED WARSHIPS WOULD HAVE PRIORITY ACCESS TO THE BERTHS ON SHORT NOTICE. DR. GOH SAID THIS POSED NO PROBLEM AND AGREED THAT GOS WOULD INFORM GNZ (HIGH COMMISSIONER PEREN) THAT IT FAVORED GNZ MANAGEMENT OF BERTHS AS WELL AS THAT PORTION OF FUEL FARM REQUIRED TO STORE POL FOR ALLIED WARSHIPS.

(B) TRAINING OF A-4 PILOTS AT CUBI POINT
HABIB EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF GOS REQUIREMENTS, BUT NOTED THAT U.S. COULD NOT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER MATTER UNTIL GOS HAD OBTAINED FORMAL GOP CONCURRENCE. GOH SAID MATTER HAD BEEN RAISED INFORMALLY WITH GOP IN INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS, BUT SAID HE WOULD SEEK FORMAL GOP APPROVAL THROUGH DEFENSE OR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HABIB SAID THAT ONCE PHILIPPINE APPROVAL SECURED, U.S. WOULD GIVE IT SERIOUS STUDY.

(C) INDONESIAN/MALAYSIAN/SINGAPORE MILITARY COOPERATION
GOH AGREED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THIS FRONT, BUT SAID MALAYSIANS DID NOT APPEAR TOO INTERESTED, AT LEAST IN JOINT TRAINING EXERCISES. GOH WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT INDONESIAN EFFORT TO DEVELOP JOINT MARITIME AIR AND SEA PATROLS OUT OF THE NATUNA ISLANDS TO PREVENT SMUGGLING OF WEAPONS FROM VIETNAM TO THE AREA. HE INDICATED GOS WAS ALREADY USING ITS SKYVAN AIRCRAFT IN THIS EFFORT.

(D) REQUEST TO PURCHASE C-130'S
HABIB NOTED GOS INTEREST IN ACQUIRING C-130'S, AND SAID REQUEST WOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS ATTENTION.

(E) REQUEST FOR MAP AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL
GOH DID NOT RAISE EITHER OF THESE MATTERS. CRONK

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